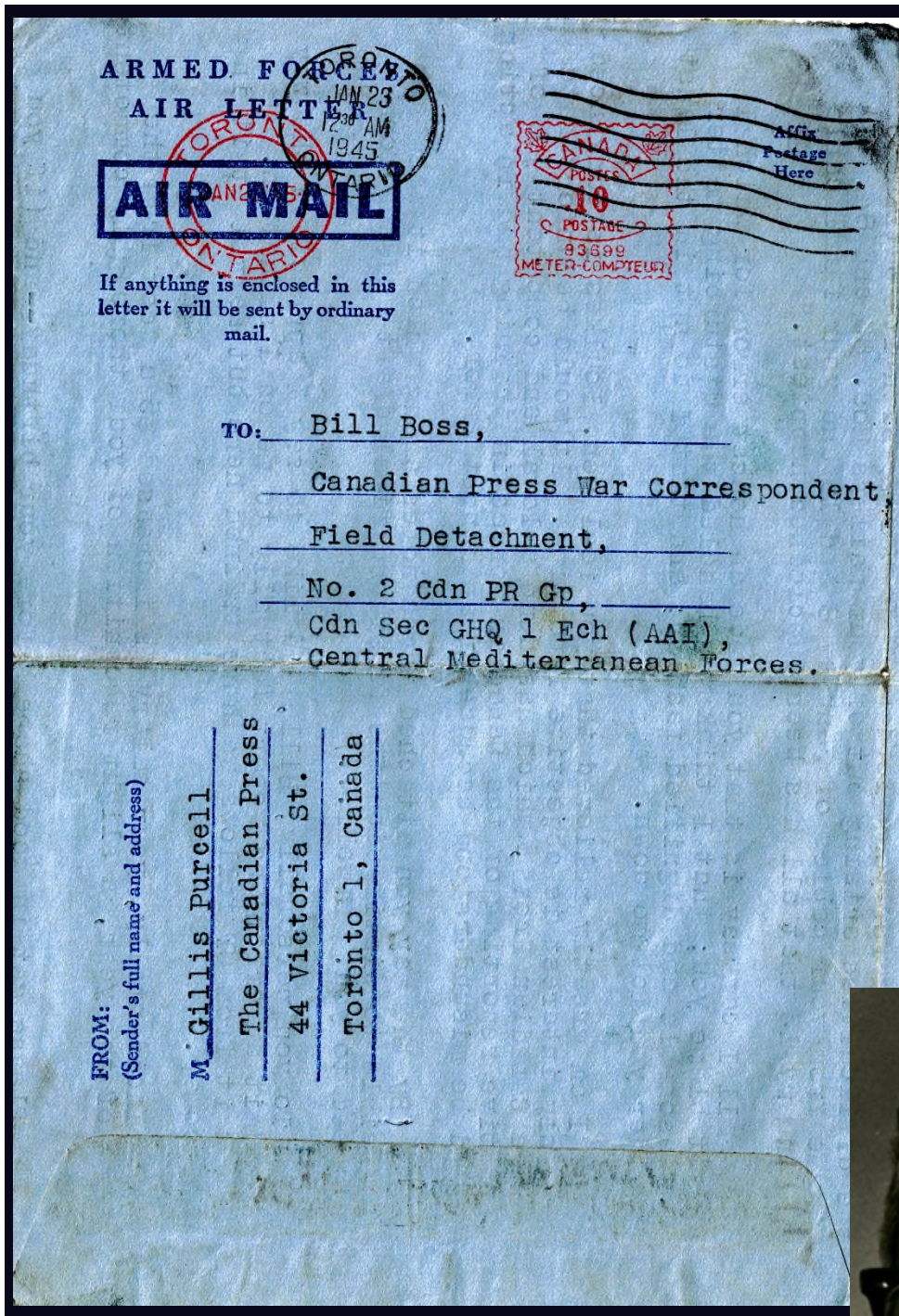


Military Toronto – World War II – News for the Home Front



Letter from Gillis Purcell, head of the Canadian Press, to Bill Boss, a Canadian Press war correspondent during World War II.

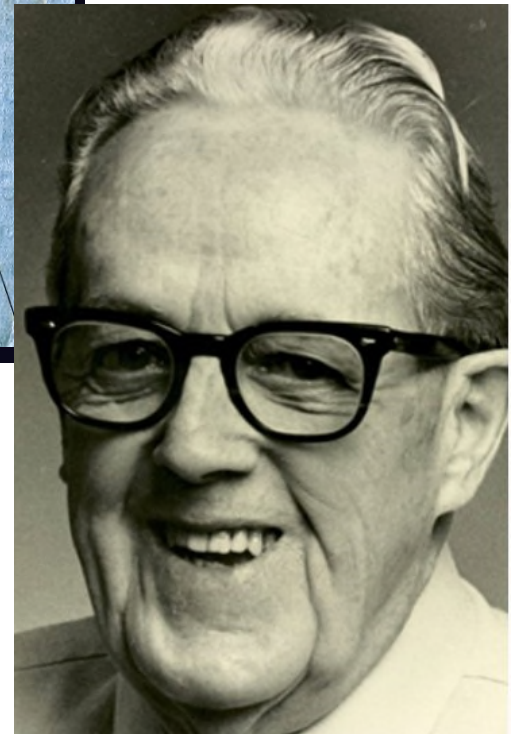
Letter concerns a “disturbing matter” between Boss and Gen. Foulkee.

The Canadian press, during WW2 was under very close watch by censors “whose own officials recognized that it often operated arbitrarily”.

One of the few sheets seen paid via postal meter

Gillis Purcell

Canadian Press correspondents were embedded with Canadian troops and CP was the primary source of information about what was happening to Canadian soldiers.



January 22, 1945.

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of January 8 with its outline of the difficulties arising out of your mailers Nos. 83 and 84. I assume from your cables of January 8 and 10 and your final cable of January 13 that all has been "upcleaned happiest."

All I can say is that you made an honest error for which I cannot blame you; that I think you handled the disturbing matter in reasonable and dignified fashion; and that I do not in the least consider you let me down.

I am greatly relieved that you feel Gen. Foulkes is convinced our only interest is objective reporting. It would be unfortunate if The Canadian Press, which has done a loyal and competent job of objective reporting of the Canadian forces in training and in action, should be misunderstood because of an honest error.

(By the way you attached three notes among which it was impossible to distinguish the first and final draft and the form proposed to you. Oh well...)

To you personally, Bill, I'd like to say I appreciate the way you admit an error and report factually to me on a situation. I expect it from CP fellows we have trained here but marvel at it in a newcomer.

Incidentally, your salary is increased \$5 a week from the start of the year, a slight recognition of your thoroughly competent work.

Please get in good shape before your birthday--and (if you want to be really friendly to the cable desk and myself) avoid all further use of prefixes like s-, sed-, ad-, super-, et- and restrict yourself to un-, cum- and ex-. The fact you never studied Greek has been a Godsend--imagine apo-, epi-, ek-, en- and the rest!

Best wishes to you and all the gang.

Frederick L. Russell